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South Australian News and Notes

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Tasmanian News and Notes

Vegetable Culture

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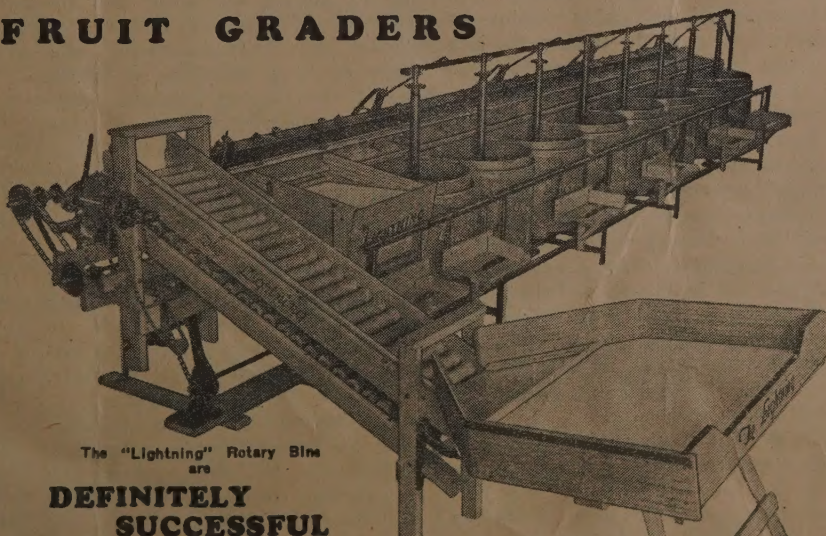
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Tasmanian News and Notes

SHIPPING AND MARKETING THE SUBSTANTIAL
APPLE CROP — CANNING AND DRYING — BENEFITS
OF FOREIGN MANURING.

(By Our Correspondent.)

Hobart 21/2/45).

HEAVERY RAINS were experienced during the third week in February, in the Tamar and Lilydale districts, in some places considerable damage was done by washing away the loose surface soil; this was particularly so on the steeper lands. Picking of the early varieties was held up and shipping delayed as the rain was very heavy at times.

Fruit is maturing later than usual and early and mid-season varieties will be lighter than last season. Later varieties are expected to be satisfactory. Pears are a heavy crop taking the district as a whole.

The announcement that the factories were not processing W.B.C. Pears this season came as a shock to growers, the position at time of writing is still uncertain, but it is understood that the Marketing Board will acquire them if not processed, which will help growers to some extent, but the price will be below the price for canning.

The labour position has not improved to any extent and the case material position is worse so the grower will have some difficult problems to face.

The shortage of fertilizer is making itself felt in the general appearance of the trees and the tendency to irregular cropping.

In the southern areas the foregoing remark also applies.

The average temperature in the south during February has been well below the average, with a lot of cool southerly winds and cloud with more rain than usual, consequently the fruit, though well up to size is not so mature or well coloured. Spot is rather bad in many orchards, and has been accentuated by the recent dull damp weather.

Codling moth and red spider do not appear to be nearly as bad as last season.

Shipping to interstate markets commenced from Hobart on February 20. Worcesters and Alfristons, to be followed by another shipment on the 27th, chiefly Alfristons, as

other varieties are still immature at that date.

The various processing factories are expected to begin operations early in March, and if the present programme is carried out there should not be any waste in Tasmania to complain about this season.

Those growers who have adopted green-manuring as a routine practice, have got most of the cover crop in and in many instances well up, the moist weather having favoured germination. Other things being equal, those orchards which have been regularly green-manured are standing up to the fertilizer shortage better than the others. Beans and lupins appear to give the best results.

Small fruit picking is completed, and in many instances the old canes are being cut out and burnt as disease has been increasing the last few years. The infected areas should be sprayed with Bordeaux mixture or strong lime sulphur during late Autumn and preferably again as growth starts in the Spring, the loss caused by the disease is serious.

The Apricot crop was rather severely affected by the moist season, the fruit cracked and then dried up and dropped off, Plums were also affected, but not to the same extent.

Blackberries are now ripening and will be in demand at the factories.

It is rumoured that a quantity of Apples will be shipped to Britain this season to the order of the British Government. I hear the varieties required are Jonathans, Cleos, and Scarlets. This should help to clear the mid-season surplus.

Now that picking has begun it is very apparent that it is a late season the fruit not being nearly so mature as usual at this date. It may be a little difficult to find enough suitable Apples to fill the first two shipments.

Hop picking is starting in a few days up the Derwent Valley and will be in full swing through March. Pickers are scarce.

The canning factories are also short of help for peeling Pears and

the Manpower authorities are calling up a lot of shop girls.

There is considerable demand for orchard and farm properties at present, and many places have changed hands the last few months. The demand will probably increase as men are discharged from the services. The house problem is acute, and a lot of adverse criticism of the Department's administration appears in the press. Many returned men are refused permits to build even in the country districts where housing was always scarce. It seems to be bad management not to begin to relieve the position at once.

TASMANIAN STATE FRUIT BOARD.

AT THE LAST MEETING of the Tasmanian State Fruit Board there were present—Messrs. T. G. Thompson (Chairman), C. O. Smith, J. R. Abel, T. D. Wivell, J. S. Bulman, R. H. Thompson, D. F. Calvert, T. Burnaby, and R. O. Watson.

Fruit Case Problems.

Mr. L. S. Taylor, Executive member, Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board, wrote in reply to an enquiry stating the Board had circularised growers and timber merchants and understood there was likely to be a shortage of 500,000 cases if the shipping programme were to be fully carried through. Growers who did not fill in and return a statement of the fruit cases they could pack, the number of cases on hand and on order, would not receive the 1/- per case advance.

Mr. Abel said that with some early varieties, the Marketing Board had already made cases available to growers: those who lacked case material should make contact promptly.

British Farmers' Delegation.

The Chairman said he was impressed by the British Farmers' delegation, particularly Mr. Giles Tucker, the fruitgrowing member. Mr. Tucker had observed the effect of potash and nitrogen shortages in Huon and Channel orchards: the berry fruit plantations, however, appeared to be in good heart.

Fertilisers.

Mr. C. O. Smith said there was need for earlier application of blood and bone, also potash. Unless applied by August these fertilisers did not be-

come effectively available to the trees in time for the crop. With potash, in particular, the trees tended to store up their needs in the early stages of growth.

A resolution was carried requesting the Department of Agriculture to issue certificates for orchard fertiliser not later than June; if sulphate of ammonia or nitrate of soda is not available by then growers should get the balance of the mixture early in spring.

Rates of Compensation.

The Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Madden) wrote stating he had taken up with the Federal Minister for Commerce and Agriculture (Mr. Scully) the matter of increased rates of compensation for 1945. Mr. Scully had advised he would be glad to examine the matter further.

Machinery and Spare Parts.

The Minister for Agriculture advised that enquiries among distributors elicited the information that in no case had deliveries of spare parts for spray outfits been delayed for more than a short period. Manufacturers were being diverted to these lines.

Mr. Bulman advocated the use of bulldozers, through machinery pools, for re-conditioning of land which had become covered with growth owing to manpower shortage.

Post-War Reconstruction.

It was decided to recommend to the Huon and Esperance Councils the inclusion of road-building to timber reserves as part of their post-war reconstruction plans.

Branding and Marketing.

Some of the marketing methods in 1944, including branding, were deemed unsatisfactory, and it was decided to make inquiries from the Marketing Board as to improvements.

Green Manuring.

The Chief Horticulturist (Mr. P. H. Thomas) wrote stating that Lupins were being grown for seed in the Scottsdale district. Orders for seed for green manure crops should be placed early.

Varieties for Storage.

It was decided to inform the Marketing Board of the likelihood of insufficient Democrats, Croftons and Granny Smiths suitable for long storage this season, and suggesting the inclusion of other varieties.

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March 5th, 1945

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

A BIG TASK.

The British Pacific Fleet will be the mightiest British naval force ever assembled in the Southern Hemisphere.

Between now and June, Australia is pledged to provide it with £21,000,000 worth of supplies, more than half of which will be food.

This requires the active and personal co-operation of every Australian citizen.

Every yard of ground must be put to work; every household plot must become part of the productive effort. By growing vegetables and raising fowls, the householder can relieve the drain on the nation's food supplies.

Black market buying must be eliminated. It is the meanest form of sabotage.

"The best interests of each nation, large and small, demand that all freedom-loving nations shall join together in a just and durable system of peace."—President Roosevelt.

BRITISH FARMERS.

The visit to New Zealand and Australia of the United Kingdom Farmers' representatives is an outcome of the Hot Springs (U.S.A.) conference, and the proposed world food agreement. It is also a prelude to establishment of a world organisation of primary producers.

The leader of the delegation, Mr. James Turner, who is president-elect of the National Farmers' Union of England and Wales, said that they were convinced that the only sound way to deal with inevitable difficulties of food production and marketing now

and after the war was by collective action of Empire countries in conjunction with the other main food producing and exporting countries.

The primary producers' job was to feed and clothe the peoples of the world, he added. Farming was a long-term business, and the farmer could not fulfil his service to mankind if he could not plan ahead with confidence, but no planning was possible if prices were always fluctuating.

The delegates are seeking the views of Australian producers on these subjects.

UNITY IN WAR AND PEACE.

Role of the Great Powers.

The late Wendell Willkie, of U.S.A., wrote thus: "While they fight, the people of the world must come to a common understanding of what they fight for and what they hope for. Millions have already died in this war and many thousands more will go before it is over. Unless Britons and Canadians, and Russians and Chinese and Americans and all our fighting Allies, in common co-operation of war, find the instrumentalities and the methods of co-operative effort after the war, we, the people, have failed our time and our generation."

WORLD ASPECTS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION.

Important Conference at Sydney.

At Sydney in February there was a conference between the Primary Producers' Council of Australia, N.Z. producers and delegates from the British National Union of Farmers.

Apart from voting delegates, there were present observer delegates from fruit and other industries.

It was decided to approve of national and international collaboration regarding primary production and to hold a further conference at London in October.

Victorian fruitgrowing observer delegates were impressed with the necessity of so organising growers in that State as to make possible an Australian-wide organisation capable of being represented in London.

[A full report was prepared, but this was held over because of lack of space this issue.]

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PERSONAL.

Mr. H. D. Howie, O.B.E., was recently unanimously re-elected chairman of the Board of Management of the Australian Dried Fruits Association. Mr. Howie has rendered outstanding service to the Dried Fruits Industry. Replying to congratulations on his re-appointment, Mr. Howie said that post-war conditions might involve many changes, necessitating the closest co-operation of all associated with the industry.

Messrs. Frank Moore, V. A. H. Clark and Geoffrey W. Brown attended the recent Sydney Primary Producers' Conference as observer delegates representing several Victorian fruitgrowing organisations. All were impressed with the need for Australia-wide organisation of the Apple and Pear industry in order to secure representation at conferences dealing with world aspects of agriculture and horticulture.

The Value of the Apple and Pear Marketing Plan to the Industry in South Australia

(By C. L. Winsor, Chairman, Apple and Pear Section, S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association, Incorp.)

AS Chairman of the Apple and Pear Section of the Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association, I wish to outline briefly what the Section and Association are trying to do for you, and want you to realise that without this Association you would be nowhere. It is the backbone of the section. You must be organised these days, and so I appeal to you first to support the Fruitgrowers' Association and then look on this Committee as your own and not as some body trying to make a job for a few but trying to benefit all.

This Committee did not lightly or automatically go on with their plans for this year. It was only after a long conference with representatives from

all cold stores and packing sheds, held on December 1st, that we agreed to meet members at the annual meeting and make certain recommendations, and so I am here to convince you of the real value of the organisation we are gradually setting up, which we hope will be a permanent one to hold all of us together and organise ourselves. You will have read of the delegation of primary producers from the United Kingdom to Australia to bring about closer co-operation in the industry.

Now think back to acquisition days. Would you have thought it possible to get the results from your efforts that you have had in the last two years? The Committee claim they have helped in this, although they don't pretend they created droughts or made light crops in the eastern States. We know some of you did not do so well last year, but again the Committee claim you could have done better if you had sold when advised to do so.

Now some of you will say you would have done just as well without any

plan, and may be some of you had individual connections that would have seen you through, but what about the man who had never sold on the local market and had always been an exporter. Have we not got to think of him? You may also say, why not just a price-fixing committee and leave it at that?

Well, the Committee knows that just won't do. Firstly, none of us know what the actual crop is each year, and that is one of the most important things we want you to help us in. Give us your figures and we can then advise you on the whole outlook.

Secondly, price-fixing. You know how many were misled on this last year, and treated it as automatic; it isn't.

Then Tasmania always has a surplus, and is looking for a market. So the Committee's advice is, don't think it is all so easy even this year.

Merchants. The Committee has the support of the Merchants' Association, which will support our plan this year, trusting we can give them an assurance of supply put up in the best possible manner. The Committee recognise you cannot do without merchants and retailers as distributors. Our job is to grow the fruit.

The Committee is always looking for fresh avenues of distribution, and will use any new method available.

Management. As to the management, the Committee always has the help of Mr. Stuart, the Secretary, and his help and advice and ability to get in touch with Government officials means a lot.

The Committee has now appointed Mr. Gleeson as organiser and director because of his business qualifications and his knowledge of salesmanship.

If you lose control of your marketing plans I am sure you will regret it, and probably find yourself under other control.

POST-WAR PLANNING.

The Federal Chamber of Automotive Industries has submitted a plan to the Government for the development of post-war manufacturing, which, it is stated, can be developed without placing a burden on the community. Particulars are available from Mr. H. W. Harrison, 51 William-street, Melbourne.

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Seasonable Orchard Work

Victoria

"LITTLE LEAF" OF FRUIT TREES.

Zinc Treatment Recommended.

In reply to an enquiry as to where zinc nails and spray materials for the control of "Little Leaf" could be obtained, Mr. A. G. Strickland (Chief Horticulturist), stated that the zinc nails used in Departmental experiments were specially cut for the purpose from a zinc sheet. These sheets are not on the market at present.

Zinc sulphate was obtainable from Adelaide Chemical and Fertilizer Ltd., the approximate price being 15/- per cwt. for agricultural quality, and 30/- for commercial. Both were satisfactory for Winter sprays, but the former contained a certain amount of grit and other impurities and was not suitable for foliage sprays.

Mr. Strickland continued: "The zinc sulphate is applied 'straight' for Winter sprays. For Summer sprays it must be rendered insoluble with lime, as is copper sulphate in Bordeaux mixture.

"Zinc treatment has given responses in wide-spread areas, but the response is by no means universal. Deficiency of zinc in the tree gives rise to fairly characteristic symptoms, and growers would be wise to seek the advice of their District Horticultural Adviser before commencing treatment."

APRICOT GUMMOSIS.

Alarming Spread in S. Australia.

Intensified Research Urged.

THE SERIOUSNESS of the disease known as Apricot Gummosis was stressed recently by Mr. B. Boehm, of Light's Pass, South Australia. He told a conference of fruitgrowers recently that the spread of the disease had caused severe economic losses. The production of Apricots in the Barossa district was about 558 tons, which at an average value of £130 per ton gave a total of £72,540. But for gummosis the returns would have been practically doubled.

SEASONAL HORTICULTURAL CONDITIONS FOR FEBRUARY, 1945.

Melbourne, 2/3/45.—The Victorian Dept. of Agriculture reports that as a result of favourable rainfall, Jonathan Apples have grown well, and it is probable that the crop will be heavier than was at first expected. Many orchardists are spraying Jonathan trees with chemicals to prevent fruit drop and spread the harvesting over a longer period. Growers are advised, however, that Apples should not be allowed to hang on the trees beyond their normal stage of maturity, as this results in increased wastage in cool store.

Codling moth damage in Apples during the month has been comparatively light. Increased infestation by woolly aphis now appears to be under control as a result of parasite activity. Thunderstorms, accompanied by hail, have caused severe damage to Apple orchards in some parts of Gippsland. At Garfield damage is estimated at 80 per cent. of the crop.

Lemons in the metropolitan area have made a good recovery from the frost damage of last winter, and are now showing a heavy blossoming. Harvesting of W.B.C. Pears in the Goulburn Valley was completed during the month. The crop was heavy, but damage due to codling moth was severe. Windstorms in the Horsham district caused a heavy drop of W.B.C. Pears. The Packham's Pear variety is now being harvested.

Heavy crops of Almonds are being harvested in the Mildura area. Harvesting of the dried fruit crop is continuing. It is expected that the yield of both Currants and Sultanas will be considerably less than last year. One of the main reasons for the smaller crop is the severe wind and sand storms which occurred early in the season. Harvesting of Valencia Oranges was completed during the month. In the Mildura area the coming Valencia crop is expected to be about 90 per cent. normal. Navels are lighter, but the fruit developing

rapidly. Due to wind damage Navels in the Swan Hill area are showing marking due to the effects of wind. The Lemon crop in this area is almost nil.

CITRUS—NEW SOUTH WALES—1945.

Forecast of Main Crop Yields.

Much Below Last Season.

HOT and dry weather has been experienced for a protracted period in the main citrus-growing areas in the State, whilst strong winds and dust-storms were of frequent occurrence inland. Useful rains were received in a number of districts about mid-January, and some further falls occurred about the end of that month in certain localities.

Citrus crops have suffered considerably as a result of the unfavourable season, and generally light yields are anticipated, notwithstanding some improvement in the outlook where rains were received. A substantial amount of shedding has taken place, and on present indications it is likely that the State's yield of most classes of citrus fruit will be below last year.

The forecast of yields, which is on a loose bushel basis, relates to fruit in sight at the 1st February, 1945, regardless of whether all of the fruit will finally be marketed. It must be borne in mind that various limiting factors such as further adverse weather, hail, etc., may come into play between now and harvesting. Shedding, for example, could have the effect of substantially reducing the

quantity of fruit at present being carried on the trees, with a consequent reduction in the amount of fruit expected to reach marketable size and quality. On the other hand, favourable conditions might result in the quantity of fruit packed for market approximating the loose bushel forecast.

	Forecast.	
	Bushels	Bushels
	(loose).	(loose).
Oranges:		
Navels	840,000	
Valencias	1,032,000	
Common and other	60,000	
Sevilles	9,000	
		1,941,000
Mandarins		193,000
Lemons		236,000
Grapefruit		76,000

Total 2,446,000
—H. J. Hynes, Chief of Marketing Division, N.S.W. Dept. of Agric. 14/2/45.

CITRUS CULTURE IN N.S.W.

Frosted Trees Make Recovery :: Spraying Hints.

A PLEASING FEATURE recently reported by Mr. R. J. Benton, Citrus Expert, N.S.W. Dept. of Agric., was that trees which suffered severe damage by frost last Winter were now making excellent and rapid recovery. This was particularly noticeable with Lemons, some of which were completely defoliated. Where the frosted branches were pruned in the Spring, new growth had developed. Where trees had remained unpruned dead branches were showing; these should be removed.

Red scale was causing anxiety in some areas, particularly where the trees were covered with a layer of dust. A heavy fall of rain was needed to remove the dust.

Interesting results of spraying were noted at some citrus groves in the Tocumwal district. Mr. Benton said that large dense trees sprayed last March and April with 2½ per cent. oil, averaging 5½ trees per 100 gals. showed such complete control of scale that no spraying was intended this season. The heavy coverage applied late last season had not reduced blossoming and there were heavy prospective crops.

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Extract from "BETTER FRUIT" by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: CODLING MOTH COVER SPRAYS—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1936, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and extensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codling moth control."

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FRUITGROWERS' DEFENCE LEAGUE.

The Metropolitan District Council of the Fruitgrowers and Primary Producers' Defence League, held its quarterly meeting at East Doncaster Hall, on February 8.

The President, Mr. J. H. Tainton, welcomed delegates from Diamond Valley, Doncaster, East Doncaster, Templestowe, East Burwood and Wantirna-Vermont.

On the motion of Messrs. F. C. Pyke and W. Morrison, it was decided that Secretary write Mr. F. M. Read, Dept. of Agric., thanking him for information received re control of Apple root borer and citrus collar-rot; accepting his offer of a meeting to discuss further research into these troubles and asking that improved control of "brown-rot" of stonefruit also be investigated.

At the President's request, the Secretary outlined Committee activities since last quarterly meeting.

Mr. M. J. McKenzie, reported that with Mr. V. A. H. Clark, President, and Mrs. Serpell, Treasurer, he, as League Secretary, had with other growers, met Mr. Tucker, of the British Farmers' Delegation now touring Australia.

He also reported that at a meeting of representatives of Victorian Fruitgrowers' Association, Mr. Clark had, with Mr. F. Moore, been elected to represent Victoria at an Australian Conference of Primary Producers with the British Delegation, in Sydney.

Mr. F. Pyke, Secretary of Trustees, briefly reported progress in the Apple and Pear Board High Court Case.

The financial statement, showing a healthy balance in hand, was adopted.

An interesting discussion on the value of hormone sprays to prevent fruit-drop then took place. All reports from users being favourable to the spray.

The President commended free exchange of grower experience and knowledge.

NEW ZEALAND.

Apple and Pear Crops Light—6/- per Case Minimum Guaranteed.

Reports from the main orchard areas indicate that the 1945 fruit crop will be much lighter than last season.

Some districts suffered from severe hail damage. A shortage of Apples and Pears is possible, and alterations to the regulations have been gazetted, which extend the allowance for russet, black spot, insect stings and hail damage.

The announcement has been made that the Government will adopt substantially the same procedure as in handling the 1944 crop. There is a minimum guarantee of 6/- per case.

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Queensland News and Notes

North Queensland: As so frequently happens each Summer, North Queensland has again suffered from heavy floods. A cyclone moved down the coast to Cairns and Cardwell before going out to sea. Exceptionally heavy rains resulted in many of the rivers being flooded. Some local crops on the Atherton Tableland, such as Cabbages and Lettuces, were destroyed by the flood waters and two fruit specials from South Queensland were held up north of Townsville, one for four days and the other for one day.

Despite the very heavy rains, a particularly big crop of beans is now being harvested on the Atherton Tableland. These will fill a serious local shortage of greens. Heavy production of Beans on the Tableland, some 1,109 miles by rail from Brisbane, is a demonstration of the wide range of latitude and altitude under which fruit and vegetables are produced in Queensland.

The two districts now producing Beans—Atherton and Stanthorpe—and approximately 1,300 miles apart by rail, and in between practically no beans are being harvested as the weather has been too warm. Each district has a high altitude, climates are very similar, but soil entirely different. The Atherton growers producing Beans are mostly maize growers taking advantage of Service requirements.

Banana production in the Cardwell area has been heavy and growers are anxiously looking forward to the opening of the C.O.D. ripening rooms in Cairns and later the Townsville rooms.

South Queensland: Growers in Stanthorpe are still busy harvesting a crop, which falls far short of the record tonnage of last year, but compares very favourably with that of earlier years, despite the very heavy frost losses. Tonnage sent on the C.O.D. fruit specials to Brisbane to the end of January was 7,948, compared with 11,036 in 1943-44, and 5,723 in 1942-43.

An acute shortage of Apples and stone fruits has been largely replaced by increased quantities of Tomatoes and Beans, the crops of which would have been much heavier but for continued drought conditions, only

broken after the middle of February. Market prices have been good and Apple growers appreciate the assistance afforded the district by the Prices Branch in extending the period of the maximum ceiling.

Grape growers have been disturbed by an investigation of the Grape industry by officers of the Prices Branch. As all the early districts were able to market their crops without a ceiling, it is unlikely that Prices Branch will apply a ceiling this season for the late district of Stanthorpe.

There is a promise of a very heavy Cabbage crop in the Redland Bay district which each year supplies Queensland's requirements on the completion of the Stanthorpe crop, produced at high altitude. Early in February, which is surprisingly early for coastal Cabbages, good quality lines commenced to appear on the market, and the fear is being expressed by growers that the market may not absorb the full crop commencing in earnest in March. Much will depend upon the extent to which Brisbane is used for Service shipments.

Banana ceilings have been amended, and the following schedule compares the old with the new prices:

Production has been heavy, and during the month Brisbane was at times over-supplied.

to be harvested in May, June and July. Many growers attribute this to the heavy smoke and dust haze which lasted a fortnight in November which can have a similar effect to that produced by the use of ethylene or acetylene gas used by a number of growers to induce out of season flowering. This will of course considerably reduce the size of the normal Winter crop.

Price: Pineapple prices have been very firm on all markets for the past 12 months, and excepting during the main crop periods this year there appears to be no reason why this should not continue. Canners are again expecting to process in fulfilment of Service orders and the minimum price of canning fruit has been increased from £12 per ton to £15 per ton by the F.I.S.C.C. to induce growers to supply greater quantities of fruit for processing.

Last year a compulsory diversion scheme under National Security Regulations required growers to consign 50 per cent. of their fruit to the canneries, but owing to the intense dissatisfaction created by this Order amongst growers, it has not been re-introduced this year. However, the Growers' Organisation, the Pineapple Committee of the C.O.D., has promised Food Control that it will use every endeavour to secure sufficient fruit to meet service requirements.

Brisbane Prices—per lb.

	Wholesale		Ripeners'		Retail		Retail	
	Price.	Margin.	Price.	Margin.	Price.	Margin.	Ceiling.	Price.
	Unripened.		Old. New.		Old. New.		Old. New.	
Sold on Stalk.								
Fingers and Sugars ..	6½	5½	2	2	2½	2½	10	8½
Cavendish	5½	4½	2	2	3	2½	9	7½
Sold in Case.								
Fingers and Sugars ..	7½	6	2	2	2	1½	10	8½
Cavendish	6½	5	2	2	2	1½	9	7½

Growers' estimates for the Summer crop of Pineapples of 1945, indicate that it will be slightly larger than that of last Summer when 425,000 cases were harvested. This will be the second season which has only yielded a very light crop compared with past years.

There has been a remarkably heavy flowering for the out-of-season crop

QUEENSLAND.

Paper Mulch for Pineapples.

During February a small quantity of paper mulch for Queensland Pineapple plantations became available. This paper mulch was marketed in rolls 60ft. long x 2ft. 6in. wide, and was quoted by the C.O.D. at 58/- per roll F.O.R., Brisbane.

APPLE GRADES FOR QUEENSLAND.

New Standards.

Amended size standards for Apples have been issued by the Queensland Dept. of Agric., to apply as from the 19th February.

The new standards provide for minimum size of 2½ inches for Granny Smiths, Delicious, McIntosh Red and Winesap varieties (except that for the month of January the minimum size for Granny Smiths is 2½ inches to prevent the marketing of the variety in too immature a condition). For the varieties Lord Nelson, Peakgood, Prince Alfred, Alfriston and Twenty Ounce, the minimum size is 2½ inches and all other varieties 2½ inches.

Sizing is to be carried out to ½ an inch as previously.—"Queensland Producer."

PAPAWS IN QUEENSLAND.

Factory Supplies to be Controlled

The C.O.D., Brisbane, recently gave notice of intention to issue a Direction to the effect that the sale of Papaws to any fruit canner, fruiter, preserver, jam, pulp or chutney manufacturer in Queensland, could be effected only by the C.O.D. or its agents for the next twelve months in this direction to come into force on March 24, 1945, subject to a permit being taken if demanded.

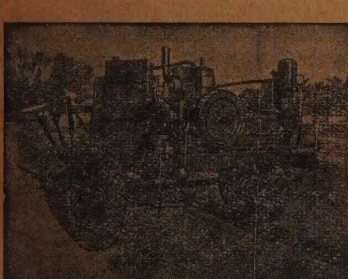
C.O.D. Opens at Newcastle.

The Committee of Direction for Fruit Marketing of Brisbane recently completed arrangements for the purchase of a building to operate as a store at Newcastle, N.S.W. The store opened on February 26, and is another link in the chain of C.O.D. selling sections extending from Sydney to Cairns. The manager is Mr. Canneen, who was previously salesman in charge of the C.O.D. vegetable stands in the Sydney markets.

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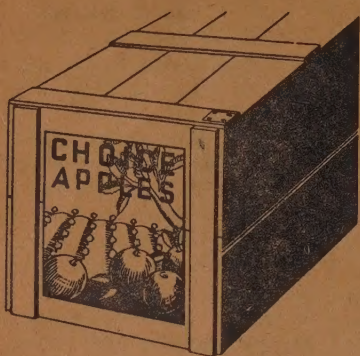
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WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Mt. Barker: Mr. T. Skinner presided at a meeting of the Mt. Barker Agric. Society recently, when it was decided to conduct a show on Saturday, November 3. A strong committee has been formed.

Stone Fruit Varieties :: Apple and Pear Crops :: Pest Control.

S TONE FRUITS constitute an important crop in Western Australia. In his latest report the Supt. of Hort., Mr. H. R. Powell, states that the principal stone fruits harvested this season were:—

Peaches: Triumph, Ruby Red, Carmen, Wiggins, Early Crawford, Elberta, Royal George and Foster.

Plums: Japanese Plums, Climax, Shiro, Sultan, Burbank, Satsuma, October Purple, Wickson; English Plums, Early Orleans, small quantities of Black Diamond, Sugar Prune and President.

Apricots: Moorpark, Hemskirk, Tilton, Blenheim and Trevatt.

Nectarines: Early Rivers, Goldmine and Masterpiece.

Apples and Pears.

In most districts the average size of Apple and Pear crops is good, but dry weather has retarded both tree and fruit growth.

The principal pests affecting fruit crops during the month were birds. In most fruit districts, black cockatoos and parrots are doing considerable damage to Apple crops.

The Apple curculio and the Apple jassid have caused some damage in the Bridgetown district.

Some fruit has been lost through fruit fly infestation, but the quantity is small and infestation has been restricted to orchards situated in the fruitgrowing districts adjacent to the metropolitan area.

CITRUS IN N.S.W.

MURRUMBIDGE IRRIGATION AREA.

Dry and dusty weather with high temperatures prevailed, except about mid-January, when approximately 1 inch of rain fell. There was a heavy shedding of young fruit.

The outlook for Navels varies considerably, but generally crops are poor, although the fruit is sizing fairly well. Valencias are patchy, but the fruit is developing fairly satisfactorily. Lemon trees have not completely recovered from the effects of the severe Winter and crops generally are very poor.

Murray River Settlements.

Severe drought conditions prevail in this area. Wind and dust-storms have caused damage to foliage and young fruit. Navels are very lightly cropped and fruit is likely to be marked by sand blast. The original setting was satisfactory, but adverse weather conditions have taken their toll. Valencias are somewhat heavier than Navels, but generally citrus crops are light.

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association Inc.

At the January meeting of the Executive Committee there were present Messrs. R. A. Cramond (President), H. B. Robson, C. Ridley, W. J. Bishop, C. L. Winser, O. Esselbach, W. H. Ind, A. Ragless, G. H. Schulz, H. N. Wicks, M. Hannaford and A. F. Martin.

Torrens River. Mr. W. H. Ind reported on the proposal to lock the Torrens River at various points between Millbrook and the Hackney Bridge. Mr. Ind was appointed as the Association's representative at meetings to discuss the matter.

S.A. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries. The Secretary reported that the President, Vice-President, Mr. W. J. Bishop and himself had attended a meeting in conjunction with wholesalers and retailers to discuss price control. This sub-committee was appointed to carry on with the matter.

Working Sub-Committee. The meeting appointed the President, Vice-President and Secretary (with power to add) to act in matters requiring urgent attention.

Mr. W. J. Bishop reported that the Fruitgrowers' Society continued to make satisfactory progress. The Cherry section had been one of the most successful on record.

Mr. C. L. Winser reported that at the annual meeting of the Apple and Pear section the Committee had been instructed to continue with the marketing scheme during 1945.

N.S.W. and Mr. T. C. Stott, M.P. (Sec. Australian Wheat Growers' Federation) regarding an Australian Federation of Market Gardeners, with the idea of becoming affiliated with the Primary Producers' Council of Australia. In the debate it was pointed out that the Association was a member of the S.A. Chamber of Rural Industry, and that this organisation appeared to be the logical body to bring about Federal organisation. Mr. W. J. Bishop moved that this Association refer the correspondence to the S.A. Chamber of Rural Industry, and suggested that the Chamber meet Association Delegates to confer on the matter, pointing out the Association favours Federation of growers, but that such federation should be achieved through a State organisation, such as the Chamber of Rural Industry. Seconded Mr. C. J. Pitt. Carried.

Letter from the Deputy Prices Commissioner advising that until such time as a Water Melon Prices Order was gazetted growers were permitted to sell in the local markets at 14/- per cwt.

Codling Moth Lure Records. Statement received from the Department of Agriculture.

Potato Acceptance. Mr. C. J. Pitt pointed out that present transport regulations required all Potatoes to be loaded on rail for transport to local markets. This was most unsatisfactory to growers, as exceptional difference in weights between loading and receiving stations was experienced. Rail transport required numerous handlings, which was not the case when the grower was permitted

to load on his lorry at the farm and deliver direct to market. Mr. W. J. Bishop moved that the Association contact the Road Transport Board and endeavour to have road transport reinstated for Potatoes. Seconded Mr. L. B. Pfeiffer. Carried.

Mr. Pitt further advised that in some States of the Commonwealth acceptance of Potatoes was at country sidings and not at destination, as in South Aust. S.A. had tried to have this system brought into effect, but without success.

Mr. Pitt also advised that a Field Day would be held at Ashbourne on March 9th, when the Premier would be present. The morning would be spent in viewing Apple packing on the property of Mr. H. Meyer and the afternoon a demonstration of Potato diggers, including the new "Mitchell" Digger, would be held on his own property.

Sectional Branch Reports.

Fruitgrowers' Society. Mr. W. J. Bishop reported that the second portion of the building programme in Ebenezer Place was now in progress. When completed even greater service would be afforded the industry in Sth. Aust. Merchandise trading continued to be satisfactory.

Apple and Pear Section. Mr. C. L. Winser reported that Executive Officers of the Apple and Pear Section had attended country meetings to explain the Apple and Pear marketing scheme. These meetings had proved very satisfactory, as growers were strongly in favour of the Committee continuing with the scheme.

Citrus Section. Mr. L. J. Wicks reported that citrus crops for 1945

would generally be much lighter than 1944.

Celery Section. Mr. A. R. Martin reported that the first meeting of the 1945 Celery Committee had been held, and the annual meeting of the section would be held on the 19th March, when inter-State representatives would be present. The Celery season promised to present many problems, foremost of which would probably be transport.

Onkaparinga Branch. Mr. L. B. Pfeiffer reported that following beneficial rains the Potato crops were looking excellent. The Committee had been busy over recent weeks in discussing post-war problems, and at the next meeting of the Executive he intended to submit a marketing plan for the post-war period. Mr. Pfeiffer mentioned the loss Potato growers in this State had received by the transfer of Mr. J. A. Beare from the Potato Branch of the Department of Agriculture to Soil Erosion. He further added that if it was the intention of the Department of Agriculture to approve seed this year, now was the time for inspections to be made.

New Section: Mr. R. B. Pritchard reported that a meeting had been held at his home recently at Cudlee Creek, when Hill's early Cauliflower growers had decided to form a new section of the Association and sought the approval of the executive to this action. Mr. N. T. Hobbs moved that approval of the executive to the formation of the new section be given. Seconded Mr. W. J. Bishop. Carried. Mr. R. B. Pritchard was appointed as the delegate of the new section.

MEETING OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Held in the New Market Board Room on Friday, 23rd February, 1945.

There were present Messrs R. A. Cramond (President), L. B. Pfeiffer, W. J. Bishop, A. R. Martin, G. H. Schultz, W. H. Ind, C. J. Pitt, A. O. Petersen, W. Nicol, C. L. Winser, L. J. Wicks, R. B. Pritchard, J. Turner, N. T. Hobbs and H. B. Robson.

Apologies received from Messrs. A. G. Strickland, Chief Horticulturist, J. B. Randell and L. G. Pethick.

Minutes of January meeting read and confirmed.

Correspondence. Letter from the Vegetable Growers' Association of

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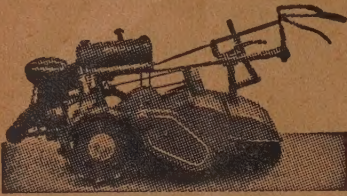
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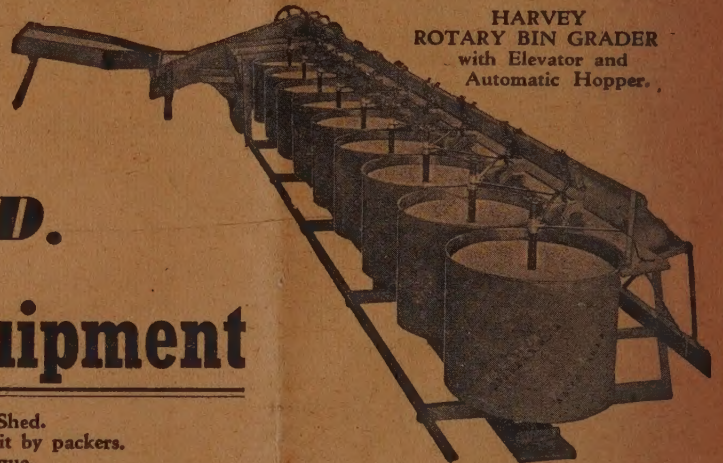
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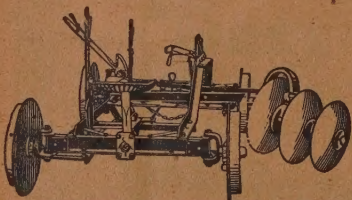
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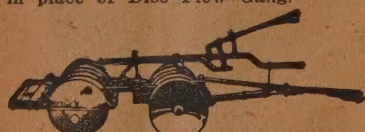


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Co-Operative Marketing of Apples and Pears in South Australia

And the Value of Co-operative Organisation.

(By A. Stuart, Secretary, S.A. Fruit-growers' and Market Gardeners' Association, Inc.)

THE SUDDENNESS with which the Federal Government, late in 1942, decided to suspend Apple and Pear acquisition in Sth. Aust. threatened to disrupt the marketing of a very valuable S.A. industry, and the Apple and Pear Section of the S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association realised that immediate steps must be taken to avoid chaotic conditions.

After many conferences between growers, wholesalers and retailers, a marketing scheme was introduced. This scheme aimed at orderly marketing through co-operative organisation.

The scheme is now in its third year, and, while admitting that in the early stages, like all co-operative movements, imperfections and anomalies existed, no one can dispute the fact that as a result of its operations more stable conditions prevail to-day than would have been the case had no plan been put in operation. In fact, it can be claimed that as the direct result of the plan growers have not only benefited, but the industry as a whole has been placed on a higher plane of stability.

Elsewhere in this publication are printed talks to Apple and Pear growers by Mr. R. G. Bartram, manager of the Marketing Plan, and Mr. C. L.

Winser, Chairman of the Apple and Pear Section of the Sth. Aust. Fruit-growers' and Market Gardeners' Association. Both talks are comprehensive. I will deal chiefly with the benefits that must accrue to members of a solid co-operative organisation.

Many members think co-operative organisation means absolute control over prices. It is highly important, however, that members fully understand the relationship of their organisation to prices, and the limitations upon organised price control.

Members sometimes feel that growers who have remained outside of the organisation have reaped the benefits of the organisation without contributing to its support. This is invariably true in the instance of organisations which occupy a sufficiently prominent place in the marketing of certain commodities to give them considerable temporary control over prices. Prices inside and outside of an organisation often are hard to compare. Non-members will frequently obtain some benefits. However, members who desire to withdraw on this account need to bear in mind that if everyone should do so there would be no organisation, and consequently no benefits. The value of an organisation should be measured by the services it renders to members rather than by the benefits it may give others.

Hereunder are a few questions which members can ask themselves, and which will give them a better understanding of the aims of their organisation:—

1. Are the results obtained by the organisation better than those which individual members would have obtained without an organisation?

2. Is the organisation improving upon marketing methods?
3. Are returns better with an organisation than without?
4. Has it improved grade and quality?
5. Is the organisation rendering economical service?
6. Is it finding new markets?
7. Is the organisation in a position to handle a surplus crop resulting from favourable seasons?
8. Is it more effective than the individual in dealing with the buyer?

Co-operative marketing has for its purpose the getting of better results for its members through bringing about improvements and effecting economies in marketing by selling in accordance with market conditions, and by assisting growers in adjusting production to market needs.

Orderly marketing is selling in accordance with market conditions, taking into consideration both supply and demand of the future as well as of the present.

The aim of co-operative marketing should be to obtain the prices justified by market conditions rather than hold prices on some artificial basis. Co-operative marketing requires an adequate volume of business, loyal membership support, good management and economical operation to succeed. Co-operative associations should be judged on the basis of service they can perform, not on impossibilities. Perhaps one of the biggest disadvantages of co-operative organisation is that members look for impossibilities; therefore, an understanding on the part of members of the methods, poli-

cies, possibilities and problems of their organisation is highly important.

In the post-war period growers will have to decide between co-operation and socialisation; I leave it to them to decide which.

Finally, IT IS NOT WHAT YOU TAKE OUT OF YOUR ASSOCIATION, BUT WHAT YOU PUT INTO IT THAT BRINGS RESULTS.

[Article by Mr. H. J. Gleeson, Market Director for the Apple and Pear Marketing Plan, held over till next issue.]

Talk to Apple and Pear Growers of Sth. Australia

Observations and Applications for 1945.

(By R. G. Bartram.)

THE VOLUNTARY MARKETING SCHEME has been in operation for two years, and it is our aim to turn those experiences to good account. We plan to visit all co-operative organisations in the country in an endeavour to bring about a closer co-operation than has previously existed.

There are some points needing attention from the marketing end, the main one being preparation and presentation. If we are to hold our place serious attention must be given. The Chief Horticulturist is constantly stressing the need of improving our packing. I think all will agree that the presentation of our fruit to-day is considerably below the standard of the pre-war.

With the idea of improving this position, letters have been sent to all country cold stores, urging managers

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PLANT PROTECTION PRODUCTS

to be ready to process fruit for non-members as well as members, as the Committee is of the opinion that group packing will greatly assist in improving standards. A circular to growers has also requested them to contact shed managers and endeavour to make the necessary arrangements. We are confident that group packing and carting offers the most economic marketing, and also assists in regulating supplies to the market.

It is the aim of the Committee to encourage the wholesale trade to accept for their S.A. requirements fully prepared packages of fruit graded, packed either rowed in or wrapped, as by this means a distinctive brand could be used, which would be the buyers' guarantee. Each shed would mark its identity on the package, and buyers would soon learn the wisdom of buying fruit true to brand. Sheds doing their job would reap the reward of repeat orders.

Group packing would make possible the regulation of fruit to either local or inter-State markets. With definite arrangements completed, the grower and shed manager can make necessary provision to cover supplies of packing materials.

The question has been asked: "How will you handle the full crop?" With your help it can be done. It is necessary that you be prepared to process; this applies to all co-op. organisations. It will then be possible to take full advantage of every opportunity

to sell early. All would share equitably and would likewise share in later sales locally.

This year you are faced with hail and frost-affected fruit. The Committee is considering the advisability of putting up a grade described as "hail marked." If this is possible it will be necessary to advise consumers of the relative values, otherwise there always seems to be someone prepared to buy the affected fruit at reduced rates, but in some unavoidable manner the price to the consumer is that of Fancy Grade.

With regard to export business, we feel that inter-State business will be possible. Last year it was left to three stores to cater for this market. Notwithstanding the fact that the export was quite satisfactory to those sheds, it is not considered fair and equitable that this position exists, and it is recommended that all take a share of the "off the tree sales," and then all share in the enhanced values which can be expected to follow as a direct result. It is not quite cricket that some sit down and allow the other fellow to make the later markets without assisting in bringing this about. In 1944, enquiries early in the year were far in excess of the supplies offering, notwithstanding the fact that sheds and growers were repeatedly advised to sell at least a portion. This year light crop fruit with short storage life must be handled to a large extent during March, April

and May. I therefore trust that recommendations regarding processing arrangements between grower and sheds can be satisfactorily arranged.

The Apple growers of Sth. Australia have an excellent opportunity of securing a good market in Sydney, which will be available in the post-war period. The year 1944 has proved that Sydney will pay for quality when, notwithstanding big quantities from Tasmania and Victoria, South Aust. quality has demanded top of the market consistently.

We enjoy quite a reputation inter-State, and the term "Adelaide Tomatoes," "Adelaide Celery," "Adelaide Cherries," "Adelaide Oranges," denotes the hallmark of quality. There is no reason why "Adelaide Apples" should not be equally famous—that depends on you. With your own fund created from levies collected, it is possible to run an advertising campaign, but it is first necessary to get your pack regular and consistent. I would not be surprised if the Sydney market proved more attractive than overseas, particularly when more cool storage is available. Here are some of the values realised during 1944, when competition with Tasmania was very keen.

These values are for F.O.R., all levies deducted. The cost of processing and case has not been deducted:—

Romes—

October	13/6	13/5
November . . .	16/7	18/9
December . . .	21/4	21/11

Jonathans—

October	9/9	14/2
November . . .	10/9	16/6
Dec.-Jan. . . .	21/4	21/11

Democrat—

Dec.-Jan. . . .	21/4	21/10
Dunns—		
October	13/2	14/9
November . . .	11/2	19/7
December . . .	17/4	21/5

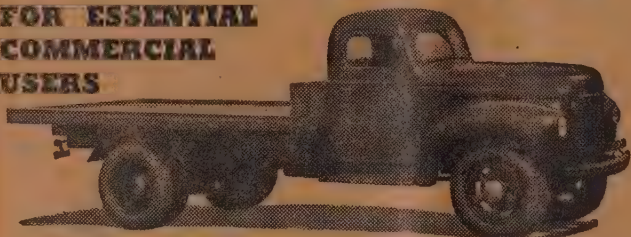
Possibly some explanation of Association machinery available to you on inter-State market would not be amiss. I suppose if growers were asked their ideal regarding marketing they would like to be present at the packing and also the selling. In Melbourne and Sydney we have representatives, men who are in touch with the market all the time. They are there to carry out your instructions. If you have a line to submit for sale, I advise the details by telegram, negotiations are carried out at the market end, and my offer either accepted or an alternative price or adjustment suggested. This is also accompanied by a recommendation as to whether the price asked by grower or adjustment suggested by buyer is in line with the market. The reply is submitted by me to shed manager or grower and business finalised or otherwise. In the event of sale, confirmation is forwarded, and after fruit has been delivered proceeds returned to our office, deductions are made and cheque forwarded to party concerned.

In the event of any dispute regarding quality the representative is called in to verify. In most cases he is able to arrange matters satisfactorily from the grower's point of view.

Generally, Apples exported on consignment are forwarded to the representative for distribution, full details being supplied, and he is able to negotiate with agents and make allotment prior to arrival. It is there-

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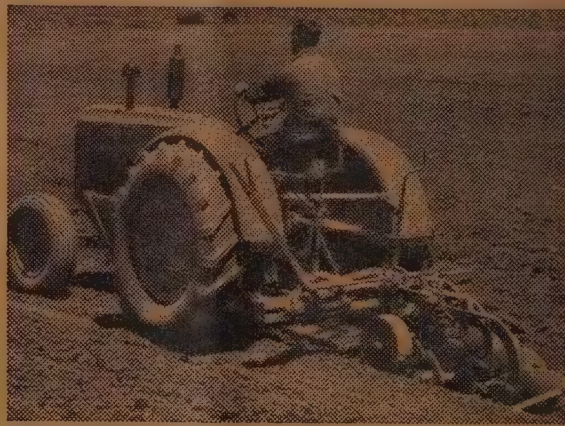
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2 & 3 FURROW PLOUGHS
(see illustration above), Vineyard, Orchard or Field types, all cut 9-inch furrows. Vineyard type has patented swivelling head and lever, gives lateral movement up to 8 inches, regulates width of cut while working. There are other up-to-the-minute refinements as well.

Other attachment implements include the **REVERSIBLE DISC HARROW**, 8-disc and 10-disc sizes. Gangs can be set anywhere along the toolbar and to throw the earth inwards or outwards. It is fitted for pressure lubrication.

So great is the demand for tractors and attachments that intending buyers are strongly advised to place their orders without delay.

GRUBBER TINES AND FURROWERS are available. One, two or three tines can be used, fitted with 1½-inch points for deep grubbing, or with 10-inch to 15-inch shovels with renewable points for furrowing.

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MARKETING APPLES AND PEARS—(Continued).

fore very necessary for all to use the waybill books which are supplied for that purpose. If a grower wishes to nominate his agent, that is possible, the representative acting on his behalf and collecting returns. A telegram is forwarded as soon as possible after delivering, setting out selling rates and comments, on condition of fruit, mentioning grower or shed and varieties separately. All fruit is forwarded to the representative, who pays freight.

By grouping consignments it is possible to obtain better rates. For instance, in Albury a representative is employed grouping and arranging full truck loads. A telegram is sent immediately loading is completed, advising truck number and quantity, thus enabling representative to make forward arrangements. Sometimes grouping with produce from Victoria, all benefits in freight saving are given to the grower. It matters not whether you send only ten cases, you obtain the benefit.

I would stress the importance of the Association being acknowledged as representing the industry. When in 1944 the movement of Apples to Sydney was stopped it was possible, with the aid of the Premier, to act, and after a hectic week the movement of a satisfactory quota was arranged.

Due to the fact that the Association is handling big quantities the railways usually give us a good hearing. Nearly half a million packages are handled annually. In 1944 the Committee was instrumental in exporting 70,000 cases from the State. I think that figure is considerably higher than most of us thought possible at the beginning. This market was strengthened as a result. This year trains are departing earlier from Mile End, and we are advising all interested that from Monday to Friday inclusive loading will commence at 10.30 a.m., and all are requested to deliver before 1 p.m.

In Adelaide this year we propose to follow the course as originally intended for 1944, when growers and market men who wish to market individually may do so. The Adelaide

merchants, have agreed to renew the agreement as operated last year. Delivery notes will be issued on receipt of the fruit, and you are asked to make sure that these notes are filed in correctly with your name and address. The full particulars covering the fruit and prices, the guide price (less 1/-), should be shown. It is necessary to check up on initials, as much delay and inconvenience was caused last year with incorrect details. Payment will be by cheque. The merchant's pay proceeds to the wholesale fruit merchant's office, who close off all receipts to Thursday of each week. Cheques are drawn and posted on Saturday, and you are asked to report any discrepancy or delay, which will be investigated and adjusted.

Where fruit is directed, you make arrangements with the directors who, on receipt of information regarding the load, will advise when to deliver. Details of delivery will be the responsibility of the director. He will collect original copy of delivery notes after having checked details and price. Any dispute regarding price or quality to be adjusted at time of delivery. The grower or shed to be notified at earliest opportunity. It is the duty of the director to regulate supplies to the market as required, keeping in touch with agents to obtain their orders and arranging delivery. Efforts are to be made to induce agents to order packed and nailed packages. We are confident that this will prove popular with distributor and consumer. It is necessary to cover the privileges of the individual due to our set up, but I am sure if the production area was 150 miles distant from the market that it would be possible to inaugurate a scheme which would show better returns to the industry. However, local problems must be met, and under a voluntary system growers generally are awake to the value of a co-operative effort.

We hope by pricing notes on delivery and regulating supply that the difficulties of variation in price will be overcome, but please do not forget that if your pack gives trouble, it

will be very difficult to place the next load in the same channels, and it does not take long for information, particularly bad news, to spread in the market. It is the policy of the Committee to price delivery notes. This decision was not unanimous, and if a grower specifies consignment this course is open.

Mr. Gleeson or myself will be available by 'phone. A depot will be available, but as mentioned previously, we aim to organise supplies to meet requirements and so avoid double handling, bearing in mind the fact that immediately a case of fruit is delivered to market it becomes a perishable article and, if not required, is better in cold store.

It has not been an easy matter to complete marketing arrangements. The merchants consider that whereas they sign an agreement, growers are not so bound. Considerable negotia-

tion has taken place, and we feel that the voluntary marketing is to prove itself, or otherwise, this year. We believe that Mr. Gleeson will contribute considerably towards making this year a definite success. You must play your part. We aim to export and also keep South Australia supplied. It is necessary for you to pledge your full support. You may be asked at short notice to make fruit available. I expect you to respond. You will not be called upon for more than a fair share. After a satisfactory stock figure is reached it will be possible to regulate business by the price—within the ceiling. We want assurance of your 100 per cent. support.

Please remember that the Apple and Pear Committee is appointed by you to carry out your instructions in your interests.

The job may be hard, but we are not treating it lightly. We know with full co-operation it can be done.

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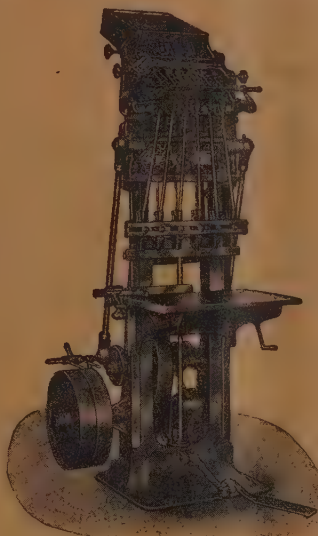
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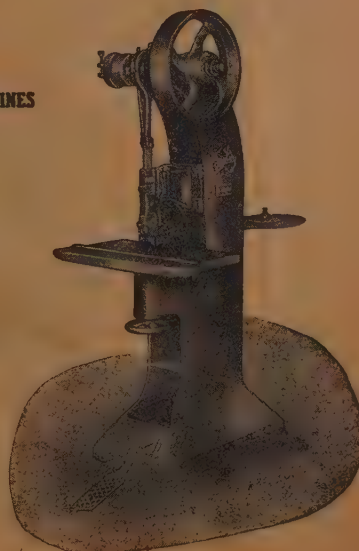
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DRIED FRUIT NOTES

VICTORIAN DRIED FRUITS BOARD.

A meeting of the Victorian Dried Fruits Board was held in Melbourne on January 30. There were present Messrs. Parker J. Moloney (Chairman), H. V. Davey, A. Rawlings and D. A. Cockcroft. Apologies were received from Messrs. F. M. Read and Mansell.

It was decided to send a letter of sympathy to Mr. Mansell in his illness.

Death of Mr. Evatt's Son.

The Chairman referred to the great sorrow which had recently befallen Mr. and Mrs. Evatt in the death of their only son, who was killed in action in Burma.

Members expressed their appreciation of Mr. Moloney's action in sending, on their behalf, a telegram of sympathy to Mr. Evatt.

Death of Mr. R. P. Allen.

Mr. Moloney stated that, as soon as he heard the news of the death of Mr. R. P. Allen (Commonwealth Chief Fruit Inspector), he had forwarded a letter of condolence to Mrs. Allen.

The dried fruits industry had suffered a severe loss.

The Chairman reported that the application of the Woorinen Fruitgrowers' Co-op., for a permit to build a new dehydrator had been granted, subject to the approval by the Department of Labour and National Service.

Mr. Cockcroft stated that the Directors of the Woorinen Co-op. were most appreciative of the Chairman's efforts in regard to this matter.

Referring to an application from J. and K. McAlpine Pty. Ltd. (on behalf of "Robinvale Packers") for a license to pack dried fruits at Robinvale, the Chairman reported that this company had been requested to advise the Board as soon as the erection of the premises at Robinvale was completed and in readiness for inspection.

Following a report that 70 per cent. of the fruit in the Nyah/Woorinen area had been transported last season without covers, it was decided to communicate with Inspector Brown, asking him to warn growers that vehicles, which are used for the carriage of dried fruits, should be

properly covered to ensure that the fruit is kept free from dust or other foreign substance.

The matter of the future policy of the Board in regard to applications by growers for additional drawback fruit was deferred.

Consideration was given to a request from the A.D.F.A. regarding the classification and packing of Lexias and Walthams.

Members stated that provided the Commerce Department's experts were in agreement, they had no objection to the suggested amendment to a 19/32nd inch riddle in substitution of the present 18/32nd inch.

In order to protect growers' interests it was decided to seek further information. The Co-operated Dried Fruits Sales Pty. Ltd., was asked to furnish a comprehensive statement setting out the reasons for the change and the effect (if any) on prices to the grower.

It was decided that, subject to agreement between the States at the meeting of the Consultative Committee, the rate of growers' annual contribution for 1945 should be 4/3 per ton.

The Chairman stated that Ministerial approval had been received for the appointment of eight graders for

the 1945 season and that, in accordance with the usual custom, the Department of Commerce and Agriculture would supply the services of the ninth grader.

The Minister had also approved of the appointment of Inspectors under the Dried Fruits Act, 1938, for 1945, and these appointments had been gazetted on January 10, 1945.

A list, containing the names of applicants for Classers' Licenses for the 1945 season, was approved.

[Report on Dried Fruits Publicity Campaign by the Chairman, Mr. Parker J. Moloney, held over till next issue.]

"SAVE THE FORESTS" CAMPAIGN.

Community Tree Planting.

100,000 Planters, Half a Million Trees.

THE DESTRUCTION OF TREES, by bushfires, the havoc wrought by drought and soil erosion and the consequent threat to our water conservation schemes, call for action on the widest possible scale.

The "Save the Forests" Council represents organisations whose membership exceeds 300,000, and its ultimate objective is to have 100,000 individuals of all ages taking part in planting this winter by community effort.

Provided the job is tackled now, it will be possible to start a community forest on municipal lands or crown lands made available for the purpose, or even on land given by private owners. In addition, roadside and stream bank plantings against wind and water erosion may be undertaken, and private owners can plant for shelter and beautification and for farm woodlots.

Those interested in this vitally important enterprise should get into touch with District Committees of the "Save the Forests" campaign, their Shire Secretary, or the Hon. Organiser, Hon. C. E. Isaac, M.L.C., 314 Collins-street, Melbourne.

FARM AND ORCHARD MECHANISATION.

EMPHASISING THE VALUE of co-operative planning in the use of farm and orchard implements, the Executive Officer of the N.S.W. Farm Mechanisation Scheme, Mr. L. Judd, speaking at a conference of co-operative societies, said that mechanisation held an important place in the programme to restore fertility. The task was to devise ways and means for the economic use of mechanisation in rural industries. Without mechanisation, Australia, Great Britain, Russia or America could not have achieved the colossal heights in food production during the war.

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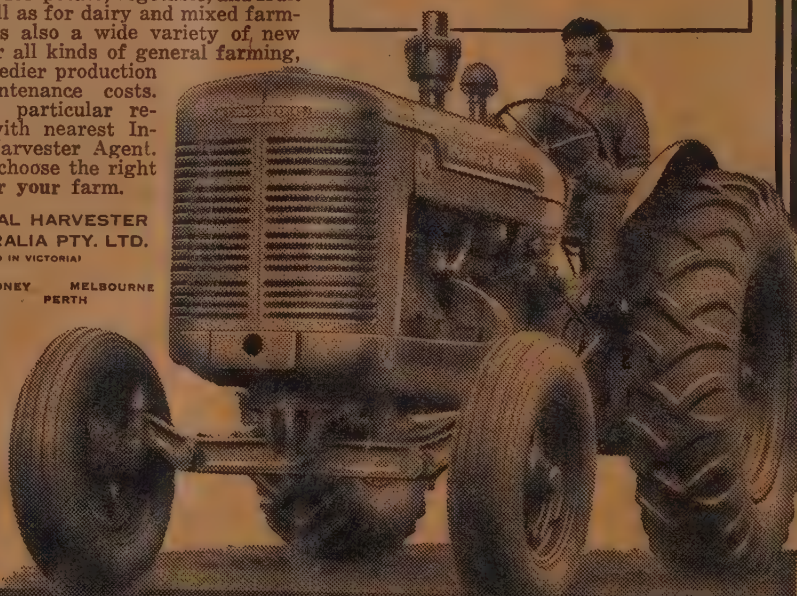
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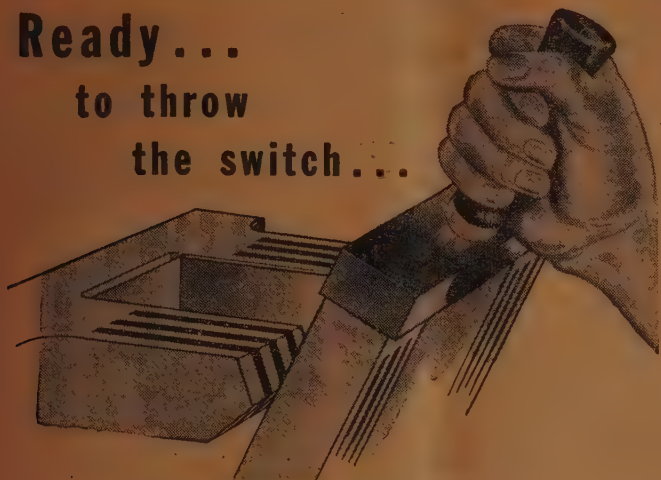
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to throw
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Processing Fruit and Vegetables in Australia

HUGE DEVELOPMENTS IN CANNING AND DRYING.
MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE FIGHTING SERVICES.

FINAL VEGETABLE DEHYDRATION figures for 1944 are to hand from Food Control, and disclose an output total of 13½ million lbs. of dried vegetables.

Highest estimate of production for the year has been placed at 14 million lbs., and as this took no account of delays likely to arise from manpower or material difficulties, the actual production figures is regarded as very creditable.

Number of plants operating to achieve this production is now 35, although not all were working throughout the year. In fact, in January, 1944, only 17 plants were in operation. Results of the big increase in the number of production plants will be seen in 1945, for during this year it is hoped to produce over 25 million dried pounds from 132,000 tons of fresh vegetables.

Importance of dehydration as a war industry is evidenced by the demands received from Allied and Australian services—it has been said that these demands are unlimited. This is understandable when one considers that General McArthur has over one million men in the South-West and South Pacific, and that the number of British forces, runs well into six figures, as do the Australian forces engaged there.

For all these servicemen, processed foods are the staple diet. Either in canned or dehydrated form, their foods must be transported and stored in

conditions the reverse of favourable. For the majority, fresh foods are out of the question.

With the exception of Queensland there are dehydration plants in all States, processing food for servicemen.

The number of plants in each State are:—

Victoria (9)—At Bairnsdale, Dandenong, Maffra, Colac, Ballarat, Warrnambool, Port Melbourne, Fitzroy, Irymple.

New South Wales (12)—At Kingsvale, Morpeth, Bathurst, Cowra, Tamworth, Batlow (2), Leeton (2), Sydney (3).

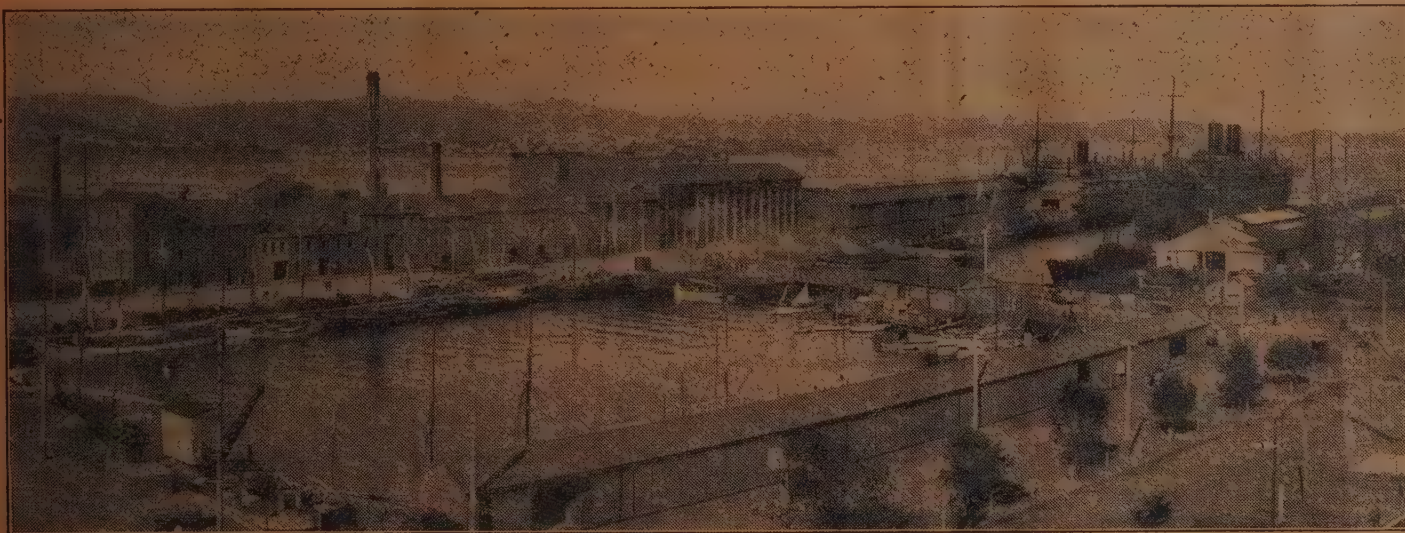
Tasmania (5) — Scottsdale, Smithton, Ulverstone, Davenport (2).

West Australia (2)—Perth, Donnybrook.

South Australia (7)—Berri, Blackwood, Gumeracha, Hectorville (2), Lyrup, Mile End.

The following table gives the amount of fresh vegetables in terms of tons that it is hoped to dehydrate in each State during 1945, together with the total for Australia of fresh and dried vegetable production, which will be necessary if these targets are to be achieved.

There are many factors which could affect this estimate, for it is dependent first on the necessary production of fresh vegetables, and, secondly, on the manpower position throughout the year:—



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Australian Commonwealth Carbide
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American & Australian Line,
Transatlantic S.S. Co. Ltd., Sweden.

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LONDON OFFICE: F. W. MOORE & CO. LTD., Clarence House, 8, Arthur Street, E.C.4.

PROCESSING FRUIT AND VEGETABLES—(Continued).

	Potatoes.	Cabbage.	Carrots.	Onions.	S. Beet.	Beetroot.	Total fresh tons required in each State.
Victoria	15,770	17,700	7,800	5,640	—	1,050	47,960
New South Wales . . .	10,990	14,565	8,460	1,500	1,850	—	37,365
Tasmania	13,700	2,600	6,750	—	—	—	23,050
W. Australia	1,908	1,322	—	—	—	—	3,230
S. Australia	12,000	8,500	—	—	—	—	20,500
Total for each veg. (tons)	54,368	44,687	23,010	7,140	1,850	1,050	Total fresh: 132,105
Dried lb. of each veg.	15,987,504	3,679,794	3,603,717	1,620,192	108,973	188,160	Total dried: 25,188,340

There are less men working on the land to-day than before the war, and this, coupled with the expected vegetable production for 1945, indicates that many farmers are now growing vegetables either in addition to or instead of their peace-time crops.

Post-war trend will probably reduce this output somewhat. Something like 246,000 acres are expected to be sown during 1945, compared with less than 120,000 acres before the war. There will be some demand after the war, no doubt, for certain dehydrated vegetables—for Eastern markets and the Pacific Islands—but it is in canning that most people see a post-war retention, of wartime production figures.

As a war industry, the history of vegetable and fruit dehydration progress is spectacular. Commercial dehydration on a large scale was prac-

tically non-existent before the war—the only known commercial dehydrator was operated on a small scale by Swallow and Ariell.

Now, three years after the production of dehydrated vegetables was first conceived by the Commonwealth to meet the extraordinary food demands of tropical warfare, there are dehydration plants aggregating thousands of pounds worth of buildings and equipment, operating in almost every State.

Pioneered under all the difficulties of wartime material and manpower shortages, and encouraged and assisted financially by Commonwealth and State Governments, the dehydration industry now employs over 2,600 people, apart from the thousands engaged in tasks ancillary to the actual dehydration process.

Canned Vegetables.

Total canned vegetables output in Australia before the war was estimated at 10,200,000 lbs. Australian canneries last year produced 105,881,000 lbs. of canned vegetables, apart from pulping many millions of pounds of Tomatoes.

This big increase is, like dehydration, due to Allied demands for food for Services, and to some extent to the food needs of Britain.

More than 15,000 people are employed in canning meat, vegetables, fruit and citrus juices.

"BAY VIEW" PICKING BAG
for APPLES and CITRUS
FRUITS.
Strong, Light, Convenient,
Economical.
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The number of vegetable canneries operating in Australia is now 59—New South Wales has 15, Victoria 29, Tasmania 5, South Australia 7, West Australia 3.

Production target for 1945 is 120,000,000 lbs. Silver Beet, Beetroot, Carrots, Peas, Beans, Tomatoes, Potatoes, Sweet Corn, Asparagus, Onions, Turnips, Parsnips, and Sauer Kraut are the main vegetables.

More than 500,000 cases of Peas will be required as well as 100,000 cases of Beans, 500,000 cases of Tomatoes, 200,000 cases of Potatoes, 140,000 cases of Sweet Corn, 80,000 cases of Asparagus, and 200,000 cases of Sauer Kraut.

If the 1945 target of 120,000,000 lb. is to be reached, Australia's 59 plants will need to step up their production of 14,000,000 lbs. over that for 1944.

From a projected acreage of 246,000 acres farmers will need to produce 400,000,000 lb. of vegetables of every description to meet dehydration and canning programmes in 1945 apart from civilian needs.

Fruit Canning.

Production of canned fruit during the war years has never reached the 1938 all time record output of over 3,000,000 cases. Last year the figure was 2,308,000 cases. This year's anticipated total is 2,250,000 cases, a slight reduction on last year, due mainly to the drop in the Apricot crop.

Production of canned Apricots is expected to fall to 350,000 cans (657,943 cans last year). Peaches, Pears and other fruits are expected to be about the same as last year.

In Australia there are 24 fruit canneries in operation. Eight in Victoria, four in New South Wales, four in South Australia, one in West Australia and three in Tasmania. In addition to Peaches, Pears and Apricots, Australia cans Pineapples, Plums, Nectarines, berry fruits and Apples.

Dehydration of tree fruits is becoming an important industry. In Victoria several orchard-dehydration plants are in operation drying Apricots, Peaches and Pears, while in Tasmania, South Australia and West Australia the dehydration of Apples for the Services is undertaken on a large scale.

Apple processing is making a big contribution towards feeding our servicemen.

Production of processed Apples in 1944 was considerable, a total of 2,230,000 bushels being processed.

Present indications are that the 1945 crop at 9,000,000 bushels will be considerably smaller than the 1944 crop, which totalled 13,700,000 bushels, due mainly to the record Tasmanian yield of 8,000,000 bushels (normally 6,000,000 bushels).

Output of processed Apples during 1944 is given in the following table:—

	Busheis	Production. Equivalent.
Solid Pack	5,741 tons	574,100
Dried	2,373 tons	1,052,000
Juice	700,000 gals.	234,000
Sauce	3,100 tons	250,000
Butter. . . .	2,000 tons	125,000

This industry, like many food industries developed during the war, is the result of Commonwealth financial and technical assistance, rendered in the majority of cases to private firms through the co-operation of State Governments. In Tasmania alone, Food Control has invested over £250,000 in dehydration, canning and juice processing plants.

SAVE LOSS FROM WINDFALLS Save Labour

By Extending the Harvest Period with —

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(Regd.)

By Spraying Apple and Pear Trees
CLINGSPRAY reduces Pre-Harvest Drop
and leads to Increased Size and Colour.

—CLINGSPRAY—

is supplied in 4 ounce bottles—each bottle contains 5 grams Naphthaline Acetic Acid and will make 100 imperial gallons of spray—

Can be applied with effectiveness and safety with Arsenate of Lead, Lime Sulphur or Miscible Oil Sprays.

Full instructions on every bottle.

CLINGSPRAY is a synthetic plant hormone in liquid form, containing Naphthaline Acetic Acid, which gave excellent results when tested by officers of the New South Wales Department of Agriculture throughout the 1941-42, 1942-43 seasons. (See New South Wales "Agricultural Gazette," January, 1944).

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VICTORIA—

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QUEENSLAND—

BUZACOTT (QLD.) LTD., 443 Adelaide Street, Brisbane.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA—

WIGMORES LTD., 613 Wellington Street, Perth.

Vegetable Growing in N.S.W.

Activities of Vegetable Growers' Association.
United Kingdom Farmers' Delegation.

The recent visit of the United Kingdom Farmers' Delegation has drawn attention to the urgent need for a Commonwealth Federation of vegetable growers' organisations.

Owing to the lack of a Commonwealth organisation, the Vegetable Growing Industry is unable to deal with many problems on a Commonwealth basis.

Of all the primary industries the Vegetable Growing Industry has experienced the greatest development during the war period. Mechanisation, irrigation, new areas and new growers have come into the industry so as to satisfy the needs of the food front. This development is fraught with possibilities and problems.

With the wide introduction of processing, such as canning, quick freezing, and possibly dehydration, the export of vegetables has distinct possibilities.

The purpose of the United Kingdom Farmers' Delegation is to interest the primary producers of Australia in an International Primary Producers' Conference. Owing to the fact that the Vegetable Growing Industry has no Commonwealth organisation, it will not be represented at the International Primary Producers' Conference, and the opportunity to ascertain the possibilities for exporting processed vegetables will not be fully explored by the Vegetable Growing Industry of Australia.

The Development of the V.G.A. of N.S.W.

In the short period of fifteen months the Vegetable Growers' Association has extended its membership from 9 to 35 affiliated organisations.

With its present wide affiliation the V.G.A. is beginning to fulfil its primary objective, which was to provide the means whereby the vegetable growers of N.S.W. could be represented through a common organisation.

The Association's representations to the Commonwealth Government have proved worthwhile to all engaged in the industry, as it is very obvious that ceiling prices would have been much lower than they are at present. As a result of recent representations the ceiling price for Onions has been increased from £21 to £40 for the month of October, and £30 for the month of November. These representations made on behalf of the growers by the Association will also be beneficial to the consumers, as during last October and November the public was practically without supplies of Onions. This shortage, states the V.G.A., was the direct result of a faulty determination of the Prices Commissioner.

Vegetable Seeds Committee.
The V.G.A. of N.S.W. feels that the time has now arrived when the Vegetable Seeds Committee should return to the seeds trade the responsibility of handling imports. It is considered that the V.S.C. could possibly be retained to assist traders whenever necessary.

Post-War Problems.
The Executive of the V.G.A. has considered the problems which are

likely to concern the industry in the post-war period, and it is the considered opinion of the Executive that the most pressing problem which will possibly make itself apparent before the post-war period is reached is the problem of over-production.

To enable those engaged in the industry to enjoy a good standard of living, the Executive agrees that it will be essential to improve marketing and distribution of vegetables. The Executive feels that there is little hope of implementing a system of

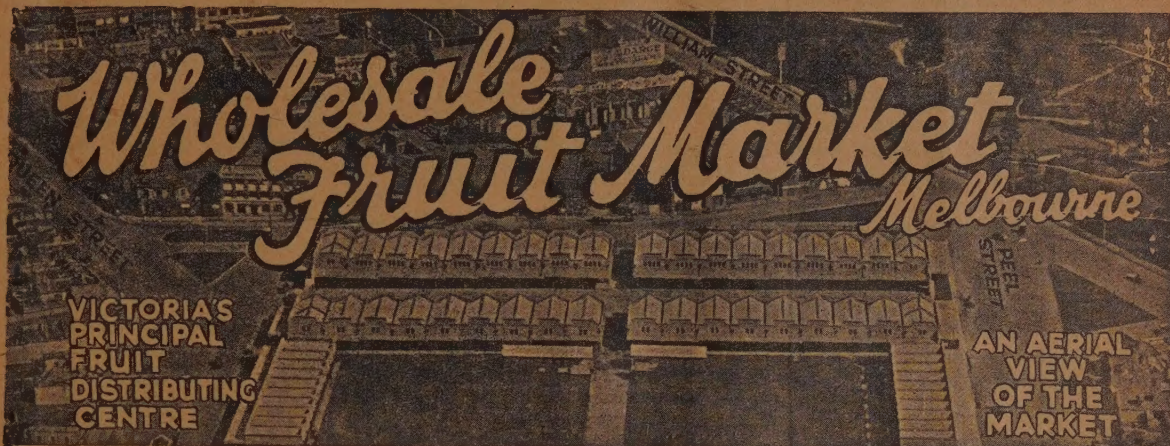
"orderly" marketing unless production can be "planned."

The Executive is of the opinion that it will be necessary for growers to be licensed before any effective approach can be made to "planned" production and "orderly" marketing.

Whilst advocating "planned" production with "orderly" marketing the Executive of the V.G.A. is quite definite that the growers must themselves exercise guidance over their own industry, as no matter how well meaning a Government might be, its

control of the industry would not be acceptable.

To facilitate the effective solution of post-war problems, the Association is doing everything within its power to establish a Commonwealth Federation of vegetable growers' organisations.—The President of the Vegetable Growers' Association of N.S.W. is Mr. A. E. Tasker, and the Secretary, Mr. R. Tyacke, 665 George-street, Sydney, N.S.W.



Cable Address: DAVIS, MELBOURNE. Code: "ABC," 4th and 5th Editions. Box, G.P.O. 148B.

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Consignments solicited. One Trial Invited. Best Prices obtained. Prompt Advice and Payment.
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Market Notes and Prices

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Sydney (28/2/45).

The State Marketing Bureau reports as follows:—

There was a further increase in supplies of Apples, principally from interstate sources. Victorian and South Australian consignments were again available and the Jonathans included met a good enquiry, the ceiling rate of 27/- per bushel ruling early in the period; the market, however, was inclined to weaken at closing. The first of the new season's crop from Tasmania, comprising Worcester Pearmain and Alfriston varieties were received. Local supplies were relatively light. Large Granny Smiths and Jonathans sold well, but London Pippins and Cleopatras met a slower request and values were easier.

There was a good demand for choice, green Williams Pears and rates were firmer. Ripe packs were fairly plentiful and disposals had to be made to the best advantage. The bulk of the supplies came from Victoria. Small consignments of local Beurre Bosc were available and best lines realised 15/- per bushel.

Fairly large quantities of Victorian Peaches were on offer, but the keeping quality of many yellowfleshed varieties was poor and low prices had to be accepted for a number of lines. Good quality packs of white-fleshed varieties sold well and satisfactory prices were realised. Supplies from the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area were mostly affected by dust and rates were relatively low. Choice Hales from inland orchards were in request and maximum rates were obtained.

Ruling rates were:—Apples: New South Wales—Jonathan 20/- to 27/-, Granny Smith 18/- to 24/-, few specials to 27/-, Delicious 24/- to 27/-, London Pippin 15/- to 20/-; very small sizes of all varieties lower; Tasmanian—Worcester Pearmain 20/- to 25/-, Alfriston 14/- to 16/-; Interstate—Jonathan 25/- to 27/-, Gravenstein 24/- to 27/-, Pears: New South Wales—Williams 10/- to 16/-, specials 18/-, Beurre Bosc 10/- to 15/-; Victorian—Williams 10/- to 16/-, specials 18/-, ripe lines lower. Oranges: Valencia—Coastal 7/- to 23/-, Lemons: Coastal—Standard—Counts 72 to 150—12/- to 25/-; plain grades lower. Quinces 10/- to 15/- per bushel case. Peaches 5/- to 18/-, inferior lower (Victorian 6/- to 30/-, few higher, per bushel case). Plums 5/- to 12/-, factory lines lower, few higher. Nectarines 12/- to 24/-, Grapes: Black Muscat 10/- to 26/-, specials higher; White Muscat 20/- to 28/-, other white varieties 8/- to 16/-, Passionfruit 20/- to 50/- (mainly nominal). Persimmons 4/- to 12/- per half case. Bananas 5½d. per lb., under-grade and ripe lines lower (weight 80 to 96 lb. per case). Pineapples 20/- to 25/-, inferior lower, per tropical case. Water Melons 5/- to 8/-, specials to 10/- per cwt. Cantaloupes 8/- to 16/-, inferior lower. Honey Dews 12/- to 15/- per crate.

Vegetables.

Peas 6/- to 12/-, extra choice 14/-, few early sales 16/-, Beans 1/- to 3/-, choice 4/-, few specials 5/- per bushel. Cabbages 4/- to 10/-, specials 12/-, inferior lower. Cauliflowers 8/- to 30/-. Marrows 1/6 to 4/-. Squash 1/6 to 4/- per dozen. Lettuce 3/- to 7/-, few higher, per

case. Carrots 3/- to 7/- per dozen bunches, 15/- to 18/- per cwt., inferior lower. Parsnips 5/- to 8/- per dozen bunches. Rhubarb 3/- to 6/-, Spinach 1/- to 4/-. Celery (Local) 3/- to 8/-. Eschalots 3/- to 5/-. Mint 3/-. Parsley 12/-, Beetroot 4/- to 8/- per dozen bunches, 20/- to 23/- per cwt. Tomatoes (local) 5/- to 12/-, extra choice 14/-, inferior lower, (inland) 3/- to 8/-, few higher, (Q.I.) 3/- to 6/- per half case, (Vic.) 6/- to 15/-, specials to 20/- per bushel case. Potatoes: Tasmanian Brown-ells and other varieties 7/10½. Onions: Victorian, Brown, 23/6. Swedes 12/-. Pumpkins 8/- to 14/- per cwt. Cucumbers: Green 3/- to 4/- per half case.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (3/3/45).

Vegetables: Beans, French, 6/- to 10/- 50 lb., few to 14/-; Beetroot, 6d. to 9d. doz., max. 17/- cwt.; Beet, Silver, 3/- to 4/- dozen bunches; Cabbages, 3/- to 6/- dozen; Carrots, 3/- to 4/6 dozen bunches, maximum 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- cwt. with tops; Celery, 4/- to 8/- doz.; Cucumbers, 1/6 to 3/- doz.; Garlic, 1/3 to 1/6 lb.; Horseradish, 1/- to 1/3 bundle; Lettuce, 4/- to 8/- case, few to 10/-; Mint, 2/6 to 3/- doz. bunches; Melons, Citron, 10/- to 20/- doz.; do., Water, 12/- to 30/- doz.; Onions, Green, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; Silver, 2/6 to 3/- doz. bunches; Parsley, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; Parsnips, 3/- to 4/6 doz., max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- cwt. with tops; Peas, 6/- to 10/- 50 lb., few to 15/-; Potatoes, 10/- to 10/6 bag; Pumpkins, 8/- to 24/- doz., to 25/6 cwt. (max.); Radish, 1/6 to 2/6 doz. bunches; Rhubarb, 2/6 to 3/6 doz. bunches; Spinach, 4/- to 5/- doz. bunches; Tomatoes, 6/- to 16/- case, few to 20/-; Turnips, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; do., Swedes, 10/- to 14/-

bag; do., 2/6 to 3/- doz. bunches; Vegetable Marrows, 3/- to 5/- doz.

Fruit (bushel case, unless stated): Apples, eating, 10/- to 20/-; do., cooking, 8/- to 12/-; Blackberries, 7/- to 8/- doz. punnets; Grapes, Sultanas, 6/- to 12/-, few 14/-; Muscatels, 12/- to 16/-, few to 18/-; Walthams, 12/- to 18/-, few to 20/-; Oranges, 20/- to 25/6 (max.); Lemons, 22/- to 25/- (max.); Raspberries, 1/- to 1/3 punnet; Strawberries, 1/6 to 2/6 punnet; Nectarines, 8/- to 16/-, few to 20/-; Peaches, 8/- to 15/-, few to 20/-; Pears, dessert, W.B.C., 5/- to 12/-, few 14/-; Packham, to 15/-; Pears, culinary, 8/- to 12/-; Papaws, 22/- to 30/- double case; Plums, 6/- to 15/-, few to 18/-; Quinces, 7/- to 8/-; Bananas (green), 20/- to 45/- double case, ripe lower; Pineapples, 10/- to 22/- double case, few 22/-; Passionfruit, 10/- to 18/- half case; Cantaloupes, 5/- to 10/-.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

ADELAIDE, Feb. 26th.—Prices ruling and yesterday's East End markets, supplied by South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

The undermentioned quotations are for f.a.q. cases, extra except where stated:—Vegetables: Beans, 7/- to 8/- bushel; Beetroot, 2/6 doz. bches.; Cabbages (large), 12/-, medium 5/-, small 6/-; Carrots, 4/- doz. bches.; Cauliflowers, small, 16/- doz.; Celery, 6/- doz. heads; Cucumbers (Apple), 2/- doz.; Lettuces, 2/- doz.; Onions (White), 18/- cwt.; Parsnips, 4/- doz. bches.; Peas, 17/6 bushel; Potatoes, new, 8/1½ cwt.; Tomatoes, 1sts, up to 10/- ½ case; Trombones, 9/4 cwt.; Turnips, 2/6 doz. bches.; Swede, 3/- doz.; Triangles, 9/4 cwt.

Fruits (Cases and Containers are Extra to the Above Prices).—Nectarines, 10/- to 12/- case; Peaches—white 10/-, yellow 8/-, Clingstone 8/- case; Plums, table, 8/- case; Prunes, 4/6 to 5/- case; Figs, 6/- to 8/- case; Quinces, 7/- to 8/- case; Blackberries, 6/- doz. lbs.; Grapes—dark 8/-, white 8/- ½ case; Bananas, ripe, 6½d. per lb.; Pineapples, 5½d. per lb.; Passionfruit, 1/6 to 2/- doz.

MARKETING FRUIT IN SYDNEY.

Docket System to be Installed.

FOR MANY YEARS past fruit and vegetable growers' organisations have urged that wholesalers be compelled to issue dockets to buyers at the time of sale.

The N.S.W. Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Graham) has announced that legislation was being prepared to effect this needed protection for producers and buyers. The Minister said that the installation of the docket system had been recommended not only by growers but by the Royal Commission under Mr. J. E. McCulloch, S.M., by Judge Markell, and by the Queensland Royal Commission on fruit and vegetables.

VICTORIAN CHAMBER OF FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES.

The Wholesale Fruit Merchants' Association of Victoria has changed its name to the Victorian Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries.

The foundation office-bearers for 1944-45 are:—Chairman, Mr. H. M. Wade; Committee, Messrs. H. Wilson, H. J. Davis, J. R. Vail, A. G. Silk, G. E. Booth; Treasurer, W. A. McGowan.



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Poultry Notes

FOODSTUFFS ON THE POULTRY FARM.

A considerable amount of food is wasted on many poultry farms. This is a serious matter at any time, but now, with foodstuffs in such short supply, it is not only a source of loss to the poultry farmer but reduces the quantity of foodstuffs available to other stockfeeders.

Rats and mice consume and spoil large quantities of food, especially when it is stored in bags. Poultry Experts of the Victorian Department of Agriculture point out that waste may be reduced by making feed and storage rooms vermin proof and using bins, tanks or silos for the storage of grain.

Weevils also cause waste and deterioration of grain. This pest can be controlled more easily when the grain is stored in bulk than when it is stacked in bags. Another advantage of the bin or silo is that the feeding buckets can be filled easily and quickly without waste. Large bins or silos are unsuitable for bran, pollard, crushed grain, meatmeal, etc., but smaller bins into which several bags can be emptied may be used for these meals.

Dry-mash hoppers and feed troughs should be constructed so that the feed cannot be scratched out into the dust or litter and they should be protected from the wind and rain.

When feeding poultry for egg production it is important that they receive plenty of food. In fact they should be given as much as they will eat at each feed time. Overfeeding, however, must be avoided because the uneaten food encourages rats, mice and birds. Rats are probably harder to exterminate than other vermin. It is most important, however, that they be prevented from becoming established on the farm and every known method of control should be used against them.

EGG PRODUCTION.

Reviewing egg production trends, the latest News Bulletin of the War Agricultural Committees of Australia says that conditions in southern States have favoured the record main hatch and young stock is in healthy condition.

Factors limiting further expansion of the egg industry are stated to be shortage of building material and a growing lack of protein meal essential for egg production.

About 10,000,000 dozen eggs were used in the production of egg powder in 1943-44, almost all of which went to Australian and United States Services, with smaller quantities to New Zealand. There will be a considerable expansion in dried egg production in the current year, when new drying units will come into operation.

A simple form of priority distribution of egg supplies to vulnerable civilian groups (specified invalids, children, nursing mothers and others), to come into force this year when the seasonal shortage commences, is under consideration.

Pig Notes

PIGS ON NEW GROUND DO BEST.

When pig keeping is commenced on a new farm, or on a new site on a farm, excellent results are often obtained, but after a few years the young pigs are not as thrifty as the first inhabitants of the piggery. They grow more slowly, more of them die, and the survivors do not look so well. Mr. L. A. Downey, Pig Expert of the Victorian Department of Agriculture points out that there are many reasons for such unthriftiness, including weaknesses in heredity, feeding, housing, sanitation and management. Even with pigs of the same breeding, and apparently the same environment, the degree of thrift frequently deteriorates. An explanation offered is that the piggery has become "pig sick," a term which is difficult to explain. It may mean that the piggery is frequently impregnated with worm eggs and larvae and with organisms which affect pigs. Removal of pigs to paddocks and yards on a new and clean site generally has excellent results. It is not always practicable to move the piggery to a new site when it becomes desirable, but the following principles in piggery sanitation should be followed in order to keep pigs thrifty, and to prevent waste caused through slow growth, and deaths in young pigs.

Pig paddocks should be large enough for them to be cultivated when practicable, and they should be sufficiently numerous to allow rotational grazing and resting for periods of several months. The paddock should be lightly stocked; the youngest pigs should be kept in the cleanest paddocks, and shelter sheds and feeding appliances should be movable, and moved within and between paddocks to prevent the surrounding ground from becoming fouled by a heavy concentration of pigs.

When intensive pens are used, they should be so constructed that the floors and walls can be washed and thoroughly cleaned at frequent intervals. They should be built so that direct sunrays have access to all parts of their floors at some time of the day. For this reason, single rows of open-fronted pens facing the north to north-east are recommended.

Proper cleansing of intensive pig pens requires the provision of impervious floors, a complete drainage system, and an ample water supply.

The piggery should be constructed on the extensive paddock system, or,

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if that is not possible, on the intensive pen system, since any midway system, such as bare yards, is most unsatisfactory. Bare yards become polluted quickly and cannot be cleansed.

VITAMINS AND MINERAL SALTS.

Essentials in the Daily Diet.

Sir John Boyd Orr, F.R.S., one of the greatest authorities in the world on the science of nutrition, states that perfect animal health is impossible without small quantities of calcium, phosphorus, potassium, sodium, chlorine, iron, iodine and other elements in the diet. He and his collaborators investigated the mineral contents in the pastures of Britain, Kenya Colony and elsewhere. They found that mineral deficiencies were very widespread, and associated with slowness of growth, susceptibility to disease and abnormal appetite in the livestock.

Sir John then extended his researches to human diet. He and others proved conclusively that large fractions of the human populations in all countries do not receive proper diets. Even in the wealthiest countries, where there is virtually no starva-

tion and hunger, there is much undernourishment through lack of a balanced diet containing the correct quantities of vitamins and minerals, besides fats, starch and sugar, and the proteins of meat and plants.

It was evident that the human population of the world could not reach a proper, and attainable standard of health, without a great increase in the world-production of food. Orr was one of the first to see that the provision of this further necessary food would cause a great increase in agriculture, industry and trade, as well as in human health. An adequate food policy could, therefore, be a most important contribution to world prosperity and social happiness.

HOME CIRCLE.

A happy life is not built up of tours abroad and pleasant holidays, but of little clumps of Violets noticed by the roadside, hidden away almost so that only those can see them who have God's peace and love in their hearts; in one continuous chain of little joys; little whispers from the spiritual world; little gleams of sunshine on our daily work.—Dr. Edward Wilson.

SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the
VICTORIAN CHAMBER OF FRUIT & VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES,
the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)
Stand Numbers are as indicated in Parentheses.

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Correspondence is invited by the Association.

Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen St., Melbourne.
Phone: F 4866.

Orchard Cover Crops

By P. H. Thomas, Chief Horticulturist, Tasmanian Dept. of Agriculture.

IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN the fertility of an orchard soil other measures besides the annual application of commercial fertilizers must generally be practised.

Most soils in their virgin state contain supplies of decayed or decaying vegetable matter in varying degrees. This is known as humus, and is a very necessary factor in preserving the productivity of a soil.

Humus is one of the last stages in the decomposition of animal and vegetable matter, and is beneficial in the following ways:—

It increases the water-holding capacity of light soils by keeping the particles together and leaving them less porous.

It improves the aeration of heavy soils, rendering them less likely to bake or crack.

A plentiful supply of humus will increase the warmth of a soil, a

dark surface absorbing heat more than a lighter one.

Humus also promotes bacterial action necessary in furnishing the food material of plants. When this forms in a soil, certain acids are produced which combine and dissolve mineral plant foods, rendering them available.

In certain districts of Tasmania, and especially on the lighter class of loams, there has been a tendency to deplete and lower the humic content of the soil by the methods of cultivation adopted.

These soils are naturally deficient in organic matter. Instead of taking steps to conserve and increase the supply, quite the opposite has been engendered by the treatment meted to them.

This has been brought about by "clean cultivation." The orchard soils

year after year being kept at a tilth during the whole of the growing season, and practically no vegetable or animal matter has been available to enrich them.

Another serious happening which is likely to occur on areas of sandy or light-textured soils that have been maintained in this way is that the heavy rains of the Winter may cause a good deal of "surface wash." This is especially prevalent upon undulating ground, and in some cases on fairly steep banks the soil has been completely washed away, leaving the clay subsoil exposed.

From the foregoing it will be obvious that such treatment, if continued at any length, may ultimately result in conditions that are inimical to plant life.

How can we conserve and supplement the supplies of humus in a soil in the most economic manner? In the majority of fruitgrowing districts there is insufficient farm-yard manure available to supply the needs of

the district, and some other substitute must be used.

The cheapest method of adding organic matter to a soil is by "green-manuring," or the growing and ploughing in of Winter cover crops. If these are carefully selected the nitrogen content of the soil will also be increased.

Clean cultivation during the Spring and growing months, followed by a cover crop in the Autumn, is a system of working that may be applied to most orchard soils, and can be utilised with beneficial results more generally than any other system of orchard management.

The best time to sow down a cover crop is generally early in March. This will ensure the benefit of the Autumn rains, and will give it time to develop sufficiently to be able to withstand the Winter frosts.

The most satisfactory method is to sow by means of a drill leaving a space of approximately 1 foot 6 inches on each side of the trees. Some growers take exception to sowing down their orchards while the fruit is yet on the trees, considering that the carting and harvesting operations will damage the green crop.

This can be obviated by sowing only every alternate strip of land the first year, and following with those missed the ensuing Autumn. This will allow harvesting, carting, and any Winter operations to be carried out on the lands which are not growing the crop, and is generally found to be the most convenient method of operation.

The green crop should be ploughed under as soon as possible in the following Spring, waiting long enough to obtain the maximum amount of growth, and without delaying the work until the warm dry weather is likely to be experienced. The lands green-manured one season might be limed the following one.

There are two main types of cover crops that can be grown—legumes and non-legumes. Peas, vetches, beans, and clover belong to the leguminous species. Cover crops of these are valuable, as they not only assist in increasing the humus, but are also capable of gathering nitrogen from the air and when ploughed under increase the nitrogen content of the soil.

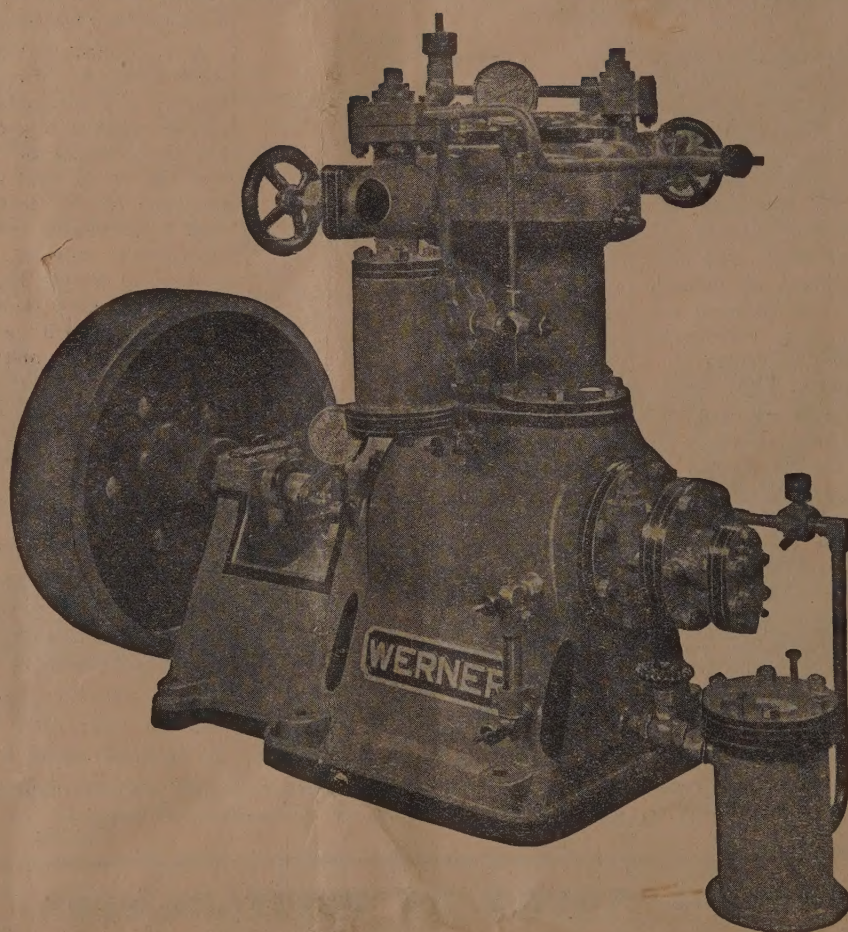
In order to assist in the growth and development of a cover crop especially in soils where very little organic matter is present, it is advisable to apply a dressing of superphosphate at the Autumn sowing, approximately from 1½ to 2 cwt. per acre of this fertilizer being distributed over the area.

The following are the principal cover crops that can be grown in Tasmania, with the approximate amount of seed required per acre if sown alone:—

- *Horse-beans: 1½ bushels per acre.
- *Peas: 2 to 3 bushels per acre.
- *Vetches (tares): 1½ to 2 bush. per acre.
- *Lupins: 1½ to 2 bushels per acre.
- *Clovers: 10 to 12 lb. per acre.
- †Rape: 2 to 4 lb. per acre.
- †Oats: 3 bushels per acre.
- †Rye: 1½ bushels per acre.
- *Leguminous crops gathering nitrogen.
- †When sown in conjunction with a legume the rate per acre is correspondingly decreased.

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